

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 324

Expressing the sense of Congress that the administrative priorities for the allocation of Department of Defense assets should be revised so that the priority established for the counter-drug mission of that Department is second only to its war-fighting mission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM (for himself and Mr. HASTERT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on National Security

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the administrative priorities for the allocation of Department of Defense assets should be revised so that the priority established for the counter-drug mission of that Department is second only to its war-fighting mission.

Whereas the Department of Defense has been called upon to support counter-drug efforts of Federal law enforcement agencies that are carried out in source countries and through transit zone interdiction, but in recent years Department of Defense assets critical to those counter-drug activities have been consistently diverted to missions that the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider a higher priority;

Whereas the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, through the Department of Defense policy referred to as the Global Military Force Policy, has established the priorities for the allocation of military assets in the following order: (1) war, (2) military operations other than war that might involve contact with hostile forces (such as peacekeeping operations and non-combatant evacuations), (3) exercises and training, and (4) operational tasking other than those involving hostilities (including counter-drug activities and humanitarian assistance);

Whereas illegal drugs entering the United States from abroad are cheaper and more plentiful on the Nation's streets than ever;

Whereas teenage drug use in the United States has doubled since 1992;

Whereas studies and expert opinion show that it is necessary to reduce the flow of illegal drugs entering the United States by at least 60 percent from present levels in order to affect availability and raise street prices enough to significantly reduce teenage drug use;

Whereas use of Department of Defense assets is critical to the success of efforts to stem the flow of illegal drugs from source countries and through transit zones to the United States;

Whereas the placement of counter-drug activities in the fourth and last priority of the Global Military Force Policy list of priorities for the allocation of military assets has resulted in a serious deficiency in assets vital to the success of source country and transit zone efforts to stop the flow of illegal drugs into the United States;

Whereas at present the United States faces few, if any, threats from abroad greater than the threat posed to the Nation's youth by illegal and dangerous drugs;

Whereas the conduct of counter-drug activities has the potential for contact with hostile forces; and

Whereas the Department of Defense counter-drug activities mission should be near the top, not among the last, of the priorities for the allocation of Department of Defense assets after the first priority for those assets for the war-fighting mission of the Department of Defense: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the Sec-
 3 retary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
 4 Staff should revise the priorities for the allocation of De-
 5 partment of Defense assets under the Department of De-
 6 fense policy referred to as the Global Military Force Policy
 7 so that the priority established for the counter-drug activi-
 8 ties mission of the Department of Defense is equal to or
 9 higher than the priority (which is currently the second
 10 highest priority) for the mission of military operations
 11 other than war that might involve contact with hostile
 12 forces (such as peacekeeping operations and noncombat-
 13 ant evacuations).

○